



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9193

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Kara DePastine-Mitchell

FORMER COMERICA BANK EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

A former Comerica bank employee was sentenced today to 27 months imprisonment for charges related to the embezzlement of approximately \$830,000, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kara DePastine-Mitchell, 27 of Westland, Michigan, was sentenced by United States District Judge Robert H. Cleland.

DePastine-Mitchell pleaded guilty in August of this year to one count of Bank Embezzlement.

At the time of her plea, DePastine-Mitchell admitted to the Court that over a six year period she fraudulently took approximately \$830,000 from various customers accounts while employed as an Assistant Manager at the Comerica Bank branch located on West 10 Mile Road in Novi. The embezzlement involved 154 separate acts of theft, ranging from \$300 to \$72,000. DePastine-Mitchell admitted to using the funds to pay bills and for living expenses.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Any breach of trust by a bank employee is a serious matter, but the crime of stealing over \$800,000 from customer accounts is of the utmost gravity for both the public and the financial institution."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Gorland.